

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 2 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please AMEND claim 3 and ADD new claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Previously Presented) A tape-like fiber cable comprising:

a plurality of optical fibers arranged in parallel to each other and each abutted to an adjacent fiber, each of the optical fibers including a cover and a lead extending from the cover, the extending portion of the lead comprising a single mode optical fiber, adjacent to the cover, having a terminal face and a graded index optical fiber fused to the terminal face of the single mode optical fiber;

a terminal face of the respective lead being formed as an inclined surface which is inclined with respect to a plane perpendicular to an optical axis of the lead;

a plane of this tape-like fiber cable and the respective terminal faces of the leads perpendicularly intersect with respect to each other and an intersection between the plane of this tape-like fiber cable and the terminal face is inclined by an angle θ with respect to the optical axis of the lead wherein said leads all have a substantially equal length.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an inclined surface at a terminal face of each lead of a plurality of optical fibers, arranged in parallel to each other and each abutted to an adjacent fiber to define a tape-like optical fiber cable, each of the optical fibers including a cover and the lead extending therefrom, said inclined surface being inclined by a certain angle with respect to a plane perpendicular to an optical axis of the respective lead, said method comprising:

pushing the respective leads of the optical fibers in parallel and together toward a grinding surface of a grinding apparatus while moving in a certain direction so that terminal portions of the respective leads are simultaneously resiliently bent to form the inclined surfaces at the terminal faces of the respective leads, and wherein

each of the optical fibers includes the cover and the lead extending therefrom, the

extending portion of the lead comprising a single mode optical fiber, adjacent to the cover, having a terminal face and a graded index optical fiber fused to the terminal face of the single mode optical fiber and having an inclined terminal face, so that the tape-like optical fiber cable can be used as a collimator, and the terminal faces of graded index optical fibers are pushed toward the grinding surface to form the inclined surfaces at the terminal faces of the respective graded index optical fibers.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (New) The tape-like fiber cable according to claim 1, wherein the optical fibers include a core portion and a cladding portion within the cover.

6. (New) The tape-like fiber cable according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of optical fibers arranged in parallel are bound to each other by a cover to form the take-like fiber cable.

7. (New) The tape-like fiber cable according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of optical fibers are made of silicon oxide.

8. (New) The tape-like fiber cable according to claim 1, wherein light emitted from the respective leads of the tape-like fiber cable travels in the same plane as that of the tape-like fiber cable.

9. (New) The method of forming an inclined surface according to claim 3, further comprising changing a pushing distance of the tape-like fiber cable to control an amount of bend in the plurality of optical fibers.

10. (New) The method of forming an inclined surface according to claim 9, further comprising determining the angle of the inclined terminal face of the lead by controlling a pushing distance of the tape-like fiber cable relative to the amount of bend in the plurality of optical fibers.

11. (New) The method of forming an inclined surface according to claim 3, further comprising controlling a pushing force exerted on the optical fibers to be uniform and constant.

12. (New) The method of forming an inclined surface according to claim 3, further comprising regulating an orientation of the inclined surfaces formed at the terminal face of the respective leads of the plurality of optical fibers by changing a set position where the tape-like fiber cable is arranged with respect to the grinding surface of the grinding apparatus.